Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 through 11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A method of operating a time-division multiplexed telecommunications system, said method comprising:

receiving a first optical carrier signal that comprises a first source address and a first destination address in a first address space;

receiving a second optical carrier signal that comprises a first source address and a first destination address in a second address space;

multiplexing said first optical carrier signal and said second optical carrier signal into a SONET/SDH traffic frame; and

transmitting said SONET/SDH traffic frame;

wherein said first optical carrier signal in said frame comprises a second source address and a second destination address in said first address space;

wherein said second optical carrier signal in said frame comprises a second source address and a second destination address in said second address space; and

wherein traffic frames are distinguished from protection frames.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 further comprising:

receiving said SONET/SDH traffic frame;

demultiplexing said first optical carrier signal and said second optical carrier signal from said SONET/SDH traffic frame;

transmitting said first optical carrier signal, wherein said first optical carrier signal as transmitted comprises a third source address and a third destination address in said first address space; and

transmitting said second optical carrier signal, wherein said second optical carrier signal as transmitted comprises a fourth source address and a fourth destination address in said second address space.

14. (previously presented) A method of operating a time-division multiplexed telecommunications system, said method comprising:

receiving a SONET/SDH traffic frame that comprises (1) a first optical carrier signal that comprises a first source address and a first destination address in a first address space, and (2) a second optical carrier signal that comprises a first source address and a first destination address in a second address space, wherein traffic frames are distinguished from protection frames;

demultiplexing said first optical carrier signal and said second optical carrier signal from said SONET/SDH traffic frame;

transmitting said first optical carrier signal, wherein said first optical carrier signal as transmitted comprises a second source address and a second destination address in said first address space; and

transmitting said second optical carrier signal, wherein said second optical carrier signal as transmitted comprises a second source address and a second destination address in said second address space.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

receiving a first optical carrier signal that comprises a third source address and a third destination address in a first address space;

receiving a second optical carrier signal that comprises a fourth source address and a fourth destination address in a second address space;

multiplexing said first optical carrier signal and said second optical carrier signal into said frame; and

transmitting said SONET/SDH traffic frame;

wherein said first optical carrier signal in said SONET/SDH traffic frame comprises said first source address and said first destination address in said first address space; and

wherein said second optical carrier signal in said SONET/SDH traffic frame comprises said first source address and said first destination address in said second address space.